

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE HOSPICE METHODOLOGY

The Hospice Methodology has two parts, one for Agencies and one for Facilities.

The Hospice Methodology for Agencies has been in effect for three years, and during that time, the Agency has found that the current methodology has some flaws. The number of patients eligible for hospice is required to be over 100 to allow another agency into a service area. This number is too high, because no counties have over 100 patients eligible for hospice, so we are reducing to this to 25.

The percentages of cancer deaths and non-cancer deaths used to calculate need are being adjusted to reflect the actual percentages of patients served in Arkansas. We were using 15% of non-cancer deaths and 55% of cancer deaths. The actual percentages of patients served by hospice in each category are 17% and 57% respectively.

The exceptions section is being removed because the numbers of patients available under these rules is too small to allow a viable hospice into a service area.

The Priorities section in both the Hospice Agency and Facility methodologies is being replaced with a section of Requirements because the word priorities indicates that these things are not mandatory, whereas requirements applies to all applicants. These items will assure that an applicant has looked at the referral sources available in the service area, the space available for an office or facility and the cost and has a business plan in place so the hospice can be economically feasible if a POA is awarded. Some of them are similar to the Medicare rules for Hospice. They will also assure that all hospice patients will be served regardless of ability to pay.